

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 03380 031317Z

46

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-11 SAM-01 OMB-01 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03

SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /099 W

----- 127867

R 031215Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5687

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 3380

E.O. 116529: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, CH

SUBJECT: BOURGUIBA'S VISIT TO CHINA

REF: TUNIS 3370

1. INDIAN CHARGE TOLD CHARGE OVER WEEKEND THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD OFFICIALLLY BY TUNISIANS MAY 31 THAT BOURGUIBA'S VISIT TO INDIA WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE. (INDIA AND TURKEY WERE SCHEDULED AS STOPOVERS ON RETURN TRIP TO TUNISIA FROM CHINA.) REASON GIVEN WAS THAT BOURGUIBA'S TRIP TO CHINA HAD BEEN CALLED OFF DUE TO PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA'S ILLNESS. NO FURTHER INDICATION WHETHER VISIT HAS BEEN CANCELLED OR SIMPLY POSTPONED.

2. DIPLOMATIC CORPS IS BUZZING WITH SPECUALTION ABOUT WHY TRIP IS OFF. SPECULATION RANGES FROM SERIOUS INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES AS RESULT STORMY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING MAY 23 (PARA 3 REFTEL) TO RUMORS THAT EITHER BOURGUIBA OR NOUIRA WILL SOON GO ABROAD FOR MEDICAL ATTENTION. WE FIND BOTH UNPERSUASIVE, ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT YET JUDGE SERIOUSNESS OF NOUIRA'S ILLNESS (WE INCLINED BELIEVE HE HAS IN FACT BEEN ILL). HE DID NOT APPEAR AT NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION AT PALACE JUNE 1, BUT WAS REPORTED IN PRESS AS HAVING MET WITH BOURGUIBA FOR 45 MINUTES SAME DAY. WE THEREFORE STILL

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PAGE 02 TUNIS 03380 031317Z

UNCERTAIN WHY VISIT CALLED OFF. WE DO NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT NOURA'S ILLNESS DID PLAY ROLE. ANOTHER

POSSIBILITY IS THAT BOURGUIBA SIMPLY CHANGED HIS MIND FOR  
REASONS THAT ARE NOT YET CLEAR TO US.  
TIENKEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CHIEF OF STATE VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** cunninfx  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974TUNIS03380  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740140-0380  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** TUNIS 3370  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** cunninfx  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BOURGUIBA'S VISIT TO CHINA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, TS, CH, IN, (BOURGUIBA, HABIB)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005